

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested prior to further examination on the merits in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-42 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 14, 15, 26 and 27 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 4-13, 16-25 and 28-42 stand rejected. Claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 25, 32 and 37-42 are independent. By this amendment, independent claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 25, 32 and 37-42 are amended. No new matter has been amended.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4-7, 13, 16-19, 25, 28-31, 37, 39 and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,060 to Kurosawa. ("Kurosawa").

Kurosawa discloses a video-image control apparatus in which a remote user can obtain the details of an object (e.g., status information of the object) in a displayed video image.

Independent claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 39 and 41 have been amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 1 recites among other elements that "the predetermined action is configured to enable the user to interactively communicate with an object within the current image sensing range of the camera" Other independent amended independent claims 13, 25, 37, 39 and 41 recite similar features to this of amended claim 1. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, at the first and second full paragraphs of page 10 (lines 1-17) of the original specification.

One of the aspects of the present invention as featured in the amended claims is that a user can interactively communicate with an object displayed on a display device. For example,

while, under the control of the camera by the user, the display device displays a printer on an office, the user may control not only the camera but also the printer, e.g., setting the printer parameters. As another example, a user may send an email message to a person while the camera displays the desk of the person.

In contrast, in Kurosawa's image control apparatus, while a user may be receiving status information of a displayed object, the user may not be able to interactively communicate with the displayed object.

Accordingly, each of amended claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 39 and 41 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Kurosawa for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 39 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8-12, 20-24, 32-36, 38, 40 and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,023,241 to Clapper ("Clapper") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,362 to Murphy et al. ("Murphy").

Clapper discloses a recording equipment having a built-in camera and global positioning system thereby a pictured video image is recorded with position information. Applicant notes that a digital image of an object may be stored in association with an audio description and coordinate information. In a display mode, the recorded image may be displayed along with the audio description and coordinate information. See, line 61, col. 3 - line 34, col. 4 of Clapper.

Murphy is cited as disclosing displaying the programmed information in a separate window.

One of the aspects of the present invention as commonly featured in the rejected independent claims (i.e., claims 8, 20, 32, 38, 40 and 42) requires that the control device activate the program when the current image sensing range of the camera matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the program. While the image taken by the camera of Clapper's recording system is merely stored for a later use, the image taken by the camera of the present invention is compared with a predetermined sensing range and a program is activated if the sensed image matches with the predetermined sensing range.

Applicant believes that neither Clapper nor Murphy shows or suggests this aspect of the invention of claims 8, 20, 32, 38, 40 and 42 as discussed above.

Nonetheless, claims 8, 20, 32, 38, 40 and 42 have been amended for further clarification. Each of amended claims 8, 20, 32, 38, 40 and 42 recites similar feature to amended claims 1 as discussed above, i.e., the separate window is configured to enable the user to interactively communicate with an object within the current image sensing range of the camera.

Applicant believes that amended claims 8, 20, 32, 38, 40 and 42 are further distinguishable over the cited art of record (i.e., Clapper and Murphy).

Accordingly, each of claims 8, 20, 32, 38, 40 and 42 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Clapper and Murphy, taken either alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8, 20, 32, 38, 40 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in

condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.


AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4618). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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